

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 13, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 85

Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza

January 4, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to India Republic Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 85, as amended, Mendoza. India Republic Day.

This measure would proclaim January 26, 2012, as India Republic Day ~~in the State of California~~, *and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating India Republic Day.*

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Republic Day is one of the three national holidays
2 of India and is celebrated every year on January 26. It was the
3 Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress at midnight of
4 December 31, 1929, to January 1, 1930, inclusive, that the tricolor
5 flag was unfurled by the nationalists and a pledge was taken that
6 on January 26 every year, “Republic Day” would be celebrated
7 and that the people would unceasingly strive for the establishment
8 of a sovereign democratic republic. The professed pledge was
9 successfully redeemed on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution
10 of India framed by the Constituent Assembly of India came into
11 force, although independence from British rule was already
12 achieved on August 15, 1947; and
13 WHEREAS, Although India obtained its independence on
14 August 15, 1947, it did not yet have a permanent constitution.

1 Instead, its laws were based on the modified colonial Government
2 of India Act 1935, and the country was a dominion, with George
3 VI as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as Governor General of
4 India. On August 28, 1947, the drafting committee was appointed
5 to draft a permanent constitution, with Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
6 as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates its
7 freedom from British rule, Republic Day celebrates the coming
8 into force of its constitution; and

9 WHEREAS, A draft constitution was prepared by the committee
10 and submitted to the Constituent Assembly of India on November
11 4, 1947. The assembly met, in sessions open to the public, for 166
12 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months, and 18 days
13 before adopting the constitution. After many deliberations and
14 some modifications, the 308 members of the assembly signed two
15 handwritten copies of the document, one each in Hindi and English,
16 on January 24, 1950. Two days later, the Constitution of India
17 became the law of all the Indian lands. ~~The Constitution of India~~
18 ~~was passed on November 26, 1949, but it came into effect~~
19 ~~completely only on January 26, 1950. Following elections on~~
20 ~~January 21, 1950, Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of~~
21 ~~India. The Indian National Congress and other parties had been~~
22 ~~celebrating January 26 as a symbol of independence, even before~~
23 ~~India actually became independent; lands; and~~

24 WHEREAS, Today, Republic Day is celebrated with much
25 enthusiasm all over the country and especially in New Delhi, the
26 capital of India where celebrations commence at the presidential
27 level. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder
28 of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the
29 freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of
30 sovereignty of the country. The president awards medals of bravery
31 to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage
32 in the field and also the civilians who have distinguished
33 themselves by their different acts of valor in situations; and

34 ~~WHEREAS, To mark the importance of this occasion, every~~
35 ~~year a grand parade is held in the capital, from the Rajghat, along~~
36 ~~the Vijaypath. The different regiments of the army, the navy, and~~
37 ~~the air force march past in all their finery and official decorations.~~
38 ~~Even the horses of the cavalry are attractively caparisoned to suit~~
39 ~~the occasion. The crème of N.C.C. cadets, selected from all over~~
40 ~~the country consider it an honor to participate in this event, as do~~

1 the school children from various schools in the capital. They spend
2 many days preparing for the event and no expense is spared to see
3 that every detail is taken care of, from their practice for the drills,
4 the essential props, and their uniforms; and

5 WHEREAS, The parade is followed by a pageant of spectacular
6 displays from the different states of the country. These moving
7 exhibits depict scenes of activities of people in those states and
8 the music and songs of that particular state accompany each
9 display. Each display brings out the diversity and richness of the
10 culture of India and the whole show lends a festive air to the
11 occasion. The parade and the ensuing pageantry is telecast by the
12 national television and is watched by millions of viewers in every
13 corner of the country; and

14 WHEREAS, The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings
15 the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every
16 part of the country is represented on this occasion, which makes
17 Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India;
18 now, therefore, be it and

19 WHEREAS, Republic Day serves to remind us that the
20 foundation of any nation and our state is in its people, in their
21 spirit and courage in the face of adversity, and in their willingness
22 to sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

23 WHEREAS, Republic Day offers an opportunity to reflect on
24 the many achievements of the large Asian Indian community here
25 in California, which is home to the largest population of Asian
26 Indians in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Achievements by Asian Indians in America and
28 California include contributions to all facets of our community,
29 including our culture and society through their achievements in
30 food, medicine, business, and technology; and

31 WHEREAS, Asian Indians have one of the highest educational
32 levels of all ethnic groups in the United States, with almost 71
33 percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher, including 40
34 percent of whom have a master's, doctorate, or other professional
35 degree; and

36 WHEREAS, One-third of the engineers in Silicon Valley are of
37 Indian descent, while 7 percent of Silicon Valley hi-tech firms are
38 led by Indian CEOs; now, therefore, be it

39 Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
40 thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims January

1 26, 2012, as India Republic Day ~~in the State of California~~, and
2 *urges all Californians to join in celebrating India Republic Day*;
3 and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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